

Application No. 10/041,641
Amendment dated January 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Previously Presented) A digital camera according to claim 13, further comprising:
 - an altering member for altering magnification of said subject image displayed on said display; and
 - a first specified position controller for maintaining a relationship between said subject and said specified position independent of an alteration of magnification carried out by said altering member.
 2. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - an optical image-pickup system;
 - wherein said image-pickup controller carries out a focusing operation of said optical image-pickup system with respect to said specified position on said screen that has been specified by said specifying member.
 3. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 2, wherein said optical image-pickup system has a variable focal length and said altering member alters a focal length of said optical image-pickup system.
 4. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 2, wherein said altering member alters said magnification by displaying in an enlarged manner one portion of said subject image generated by said image sensor on said screen of said display.
 5. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 4 further comprising:
 - a cursor generator for generating a cursor corresponding to said specified position specified by said specifying member,

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wherein said display composes said cursor and said portion of said subject image to display the resulting image on said screen.

6. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 2, further comprising:
a photometric circuit for carrying out a photometric operation with respect to a photometric area based upon said specified position,
wherein in the case when said specified position is located at an edge of said screen, said image-pickup controller shifts a center of said photometric area in the center direction of said screen from said specified position.

7. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:
a photometric circuit for measuring subject luminance;
wherein said image-pickup controller carries out photometric calculations with respect to said specified position on said screen specified by said specifying member.

8. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 7, further comprising:
an optical image-pickup system having a variable focal length,
wherein said altering member alters a focal length of said optical image-pickup system.

9. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 7, wherein said altering member alters said magnification of said subject image by displaying in an enlarged manner one portion of said subject image generated by said image sensor on said screen of said display.

10. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:
a second specified position controller for maintaining a relationship between said screen and said specified position independent of an alteration in said magnification by said altering member; and
a selector for selecting either said first specified position controller or said second specified position controller.

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11. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 10, wherein in the case when said second specified position controller is selected by said selector with said specified position being out of said screen of said display by said alteration in said magnification by said altering member, said second specified position controller shifts said specified position to a predetermined position within said screen.

12. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 11, wherein said predetermined position within said screen is on an edge of said screen or in a vicinity of an edge of said screen.

13. (Original) A digital camera comprising:
an image sensor for picking up an image of a subject and for generating a subject image;
a display for displaying said subject image generated by said image sensor on a screen;
a specifying member for specifying a specific position on said screen;
a colorimetric circuit for carrying out colorimetric calculations so as to adjust white balance of said subject image independent of said specified position specified by said specifying member; and
an image-pickup controller for controlling an image-pickup operation based upon said specified position specified by said specifying member.

14. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 13, further comprising:
an optical image-pickup system;
wherein said image-pickup controller carries out a focusing operation of said optical image-pickup system with respect to said specified position on said screen that has been specified by said specifying member.

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15. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 13, further comprising:
a photometric circuit for measuring subject luminance;
wherein said image-pickup controller carries out photometric calculations with
respect to said specified position on said screen specified by said specifying member.

16. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 13, wherein said
colorimetric circuit carries out colorimetric calculations on an entire portion of said
subject image independent of said specified position specified by said specifying member.

17. (Currently Amended) A digital camera comprising:
an image sensor for picking up an image of a subject at a selected zoom setting and
for generating a subject image;
a means for varying a zoom setting, for controlling a zoom setting at which said
image sensor picks up an image of a subject;
a display for displaying said subject image generated by said image sensor on a
screen;
a specifying member for specifying a specific position on said screen;
an image-pickup controller for carrying out a focusing operation based upon said
specified position specified by said specifying member; and
a display controller for displaying a portion of said subject image in an enlarged
manner in an enlarged area containing said specified position specified by said specifying
member on said screen while maintaining said selected zoom setting for said subject
image.

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18. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 17, wherein said display
controller displays said subject image in an enlarged manner, centered on said specified
position.

19. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 17, wherein in the case
when said subject image, displayed in an enlarged manner, causes an area other than said

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subject image generated by said image sensor to be displayed on said display, said display controller displays said area other than said subject image in a specific color.

20. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 17, further comprising:
an altering member for altering magnification by displaying one portion of said subject image generated by said image sensor on said screen of said display in an enlarged manner,

wherein in the case when an area other than said subject image that has been stored is displayed on said screen of said display by said altering member, an original subject image generated by said image sensor, which corresponds to said area other than said subject image, is displayed.

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21. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 17, wherein in the case when said subject image, displayed in an enlarged manner, causes an area other than said subject image generated by said image sensor to be displayed on said screen of said display, said display controller makes an edge of said enlarged area coincident with an edge of said subject image.

22. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 17 further comprising:
a cursor generator for generating a cursor corresponding to said specified position specified by said specifying member; and
a limiter for limiting a shift of said cursor to said enlarged area provided by said display controller.

23. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 17, further comprising:
a cursor generator for generating a cursor corresponding to said specified position specified by said specifying member,
wherein said display controller alters said enlarged area as said cursor shifts.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a digital camera comprising the steps of:

picking up an image of a subject;
generating a subject image based on said picked up image of said subject;
displaying said generated subject image on a screen;
specifying a specific position on said screen;
carrying out colorimetric calculations so as to adjust white balance of said subject image independent of said specified position; and
controlling an image-pickup operation based upon said specified position.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a digital camera comprising the steps of:

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picking up an image of a subject at a selected zoom setting;
generating a subject image based on said picked up image of said subject at the selected zoom setting;
displaying said subject image generated on a screen;
specifying a specific position on said screen;
carrying out a focusing operation based upon said specified position; and
displaying a portion of said subject image in an enlarged manner in an enlarged area containing said specified position on said screen while maintaining said selected zoom setting for said subject image.

26. (New) A digital camera in accordance with claim 17, wherein said means for varying a zoom setting includes a variable focal length optical image-pickup system.

27. (New) A digital camera in accordance with claim 17, wherein said means for varying a zoom setting includes an electronic zooming system.

28. (New) An image taking apparatus, comprising:
an image sensor for picking up an image of a subject;
a display for displaying an image of a subject generated by the image sensor;

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an input mechanism for permitting a user to designate a position on said display;

a means for changing a magnification of an image displayed on said display;

a processor; and

a memory for storing instructions executable by said processor, said instructions for enabling said controller to control operations of said apparatus;

wherein said instructions executable by said processor include:

executable instructions, responsive to a user designation of a position on said display, for displaying on said display a indication of said designated position;

executable instructions, responsive to a user command, for invoking one of a first display designation magnification mode and a second display designation magnification mode;

executable instructions, operable when said first display designation magnification mode is invoked, for controlling the display of a magnified image of a subject on said display and for controlling the display of a indication of said designated position so that a location of said indication on said display prior to magnification is maintained after magnification in a same location relative to said display;

executable instructions, operable when said second display designation magnification mode is invoked, for controlling the display of a magnified image of a subject on said display and for controlling the display of a indication of said designated position so that a location of said indication on said display prior to magnification is maintained after magnification in a same location relative to said image of a subject; and

executable instructions for controlling an image pickup operation based on said designated position.

29. (New) An image taking apparatus in accordance with claim 28, wherein said instructions executable by said processor include:

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executable instructions for performing photometric operations on an image of a subject generated by the image sensor,

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said executable instructions for performing photometric operations being configured in a first photometric mode to perform photometric operations based on a portion of said image corresponding to said designated position on said display,

said executable instructions for performing photometric operations being configured in a second photometric mode to perform photometric operations based on a portion of said image shifted away from said designated position on said display.
